

CHELSEA CREEK COMPARATIVE RISK ASSESSMENT



Chelsea Creek Action Group

**Chelsea Green Space &
Recreation Committee**

NOAH



*Working together to improve public access to
information and the quality of life for residents
in East Boston and Chelsea.*

WHAT IS THE CHELSEA CREEK COMPARATIVE RISK ASSESSMENT?

Chelsea and East Boston residents face a number of risks every day. The Chelsea Creek is home to industries that can have huge impacts on their health and environment – including a multi-ton salt pile, petroleum storage tanks and heavy truck traffic.

The Chelsea Creek Comparative Risk Assessment is a unique project designed to help address some of these issues. This project will collect and share detailed information with local residents, people from all levels of government, community and environmental groups, and academia on some of the most important local environmental, public health, and social issues.

The Chelsea Creek Comparative Risk Assessment will provide the first report to the public combining resident concerns and ideas with scientific information.

The project partners have worked together on this project since January 2000. The goal is to finish the Comparative Risk Assessment within two years.

This Comparative Risk Assessment will do more than just provide information to the public. Information from this project can supplement existing efforts to restore and revitalize the environment and improve public health for residents in the Chelsea Creek area.

KEY PROJECT MEMBERS:

- Chelsea Human Services Collaborative
- Chelsea Creek Action Group (CCAG)
- Chelsea Green Space & Recreation Committee (Green Space)
- Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH)
- Greater Boston Urban Resources Partnership (GB-URP)
- US Environmental Protection Agency, New England – Urban Environmental Initiative

**If you have any questions, or
would like to get involved
with the project, please call:**

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STEP ONE: COMMUNITY SURVEYS

Due to limited time and resources, this project only addresses a few issues. Community members living in East Boston and Chelsea will guide which environmental, public health, and social issues to target. In order to start identifying these issues, we created a survey and talked to local residents in both communities over this summer and fall. Surveyors talked to over 300 people and

asked them to identify the key environmental, public health and social issues impacting their quality of life.

This survey is the first step in selecting issues that reflect the concerns of local residents.

Public meetings in Chelsea and East Boston held in December of 2000 will also help understand public concerns.

STEP TWO: CREATE COMMITTEES

East Boston and Chelsea residents will work together on a Resident Advisory Committee throughout this project. This committee will help set goals for the project, prioritize the issues, and guide how information is organized and presented to the public.

Membership to the Resident Advisory Committee is open to the public — so please get involved!

The project will also bring together a Technical Committee with representatives from local, state, and federal government, academia, and community groups. This group will gather and analyze information on the topics selected by the Resident Advisory Committee. They will also help prepare summary reports on the information, identify potential sources of contamination, create maps, contacts for questions, and identify potential solutions to the problem.

“Since I live so close to the Chelsea Creek . . . could the oil or any chemicals that are in the creek affect my son?”

- Quote from local resident interviewed in Community Survey

STEP THREE: GATHER INFORMATION & CREATE REPORT

Once the Resident Advisory Committee identifies 2-3 environmental, 1-2 public health and 1 social issue for the report, the research will begin!

The Resident Advisory Committee and the Technical Committee will meet regularly to share information and find ways to summarize and communicate the information in a way that is clear and concise.

The report will identify ways to solve the problems and reduce the public health risk for Chelsea and East Boston residents from the environment, public health and social problems targeted in the study.

The process of creating the report will take time and effort from a lot of different people and organizations, and the Resident Advisory Committee will be a key part of making sure that the information in the report helps bring important information to local residents.

STEP FOUR: SHARE RESULTS & NEXT STEPS

Once a draft of the Chelsea Creek Comparative Risk Assessment is completed and reviewed by the Technical Committee and the Resident Advisory Committee, the report will be shared with the public.

There will be public meetings with question and answer sessions held in East Boston and Chelsea so residents can listen to the results, get more details about the problems and impacts to public health,

raise public awareness about current projects, and be involved in determining what next steps need to be taken.

We hope that the end result of this project is a better public understanding of some of the environment, public health, and social risks facing East Boston and Chelsea residents and greater commitment to direct available resources to solving these problems.

TOP ISSUES FROM COMMUNITY SURVEYS:

Environmental Issues:

Air Pollution
Trash
Water Quality in the Chelsea Creek
Drinking Water Quality
Open Space
Noxious Odors

Public Health Issues:

Respiratory Problems
Cancer
Asthma

Social Issues:

Noise
Traffic
Drugs
Housing
Health Care/Insurance